

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

It is respectfully submitted that U.S. Patent 5,806,552 taken in combination with Applicant's admitted prior art, fails to teach, disclose, suggest or render obvious the subject matter of claims 5-7 currently pending.

The '552 patent, as is clear from the specification and figures, refers to a cartridge-type valve assembly having an adapter 50. The adapter 50 has two positions. In one position the adapter allows for fluid communication between hot and cold water inlet pipes and hot and cold inlets in the stationary valve portion. In a second position, when the adapter is removed and turned over, communication between the hot and cold water inlet pipes and the hot and cold water inlets in the valve portion are reversed. The adapter 50, as such, can be made as a separate element which can be equipped under the cartridge and removed. This adapter cannot be used for any other function and the valve as such is ready to operate even without the adapter 50.

In accordance with the present invention as claimed in claims 5-7, the construction element 14 formed in the base 9 of the cartridge casing 3 (attention is drawn specifically to Figures 2 and 3) is constructed to receive an insertion piece 10 which enables connection between ducts 13 and the valve battery and inlet openings. In accordance with the present invention,

the cartridge cannot be operated without the insertion piece; however, the insertion piece 10 is "interchangeable". The term "interchangeable" as defined in the specification clearly means that the insertion piece can be arranged in the cartridge and that there are various insertion pieces which can be interchanged in the cartridge as desired to realize different functions within the same cartridge. Stated a different way, there are a plurality of interchangeable insertion pieces available which may be selectively positioned in the cartridge in order to achieve the desired function. The cartridge cannot operate without an insertion piece. Thus, different insertion pieces may be provided in the cartridge to achieve a desired function. This is not possible with the prior art. In the prior art, the same "piece" may be used in two positions or, eliminated in totality. The adapter is not a required element in the '552 patent. Thus, by allowing, in accordance with the present invention, different insertion pieces to be used in the same cartridge to achieve different functions, the cartridge becomes a "universal" element which is highly desirable and advantageous.

In summary, the prior art does not teach "an interchangeable insertion piece" as provided for in independent claim 1 nor the "replaceable insert" as set forth in independent claim 6. In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of

the claims as pending patentably define over the art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

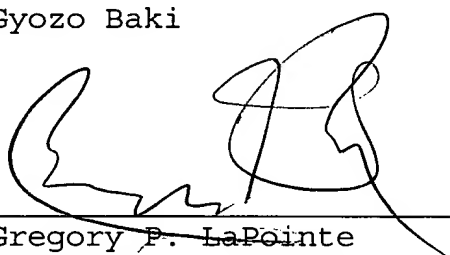
It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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I, Rachel Piscitelli, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on September 13, 2005.

